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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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July 1956

THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

On July 20, 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued an executive order establishing on a permanent basis the National Agricultural Advisory Commission. The order requires that the Commission have 18 members, not more than nine of whom shall be members of any one political party, and that at least 12 be representative farmers from the several geographic sections of the United States. The Commission meets at the call of the Secretary of Agriculture at least once during each quarter of each calendar year.

The purpose of the Commission, as stated in the President's executive order, is: to: (1) Review the policies and administration of farm programs within the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture, or any part of such policies and administration, and such related matters as the Secretary shall determine, and (2) advise the Secretary in regard thereto. (The new Commission replaced the 14-man interim agricultural advisory committee which met with the Secretary of Agriculture in an advisory capacity several times following its appointment in December 1952.)

As of November 24, 1953, all 18 members of the Commission had been appointed six of them to serve until January 31, 1955; six to serve until January 31, 1956; and six to serve until January 31, 1957. Dr. Wm. I. Myers, dean of the College of Agriculture at Cornell, was named by President Eisenhower to be chairman of the Commission.

Present members of the Commission (six to serve until January 31, 1957, six until January 31, 1958, and six until January 31, 1959) and a brief biographical sketch about each of them follow:

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USDA 2138-56

To Serve Until January 31, 1957 --

Wm. I. Myers, Ithaca, New York (Chairman)

Mr. Myers has devoted nearly all of his life to agriculture, as teacher, research worker, administrator and farm operator. He was born on a farm near Lowman, N.Y., and spent the early years of his life there. He graduated from Cornell University in 1914. In 1920 he was appointed professor of farm finance and in 1938 he became head of Cornell's Department of Agricultural Economics. Since 1943 he has been dean of the College of Agriculture. For more than thirty years Mr. Myers has lived on and operated his 84-acre farm near Ithaca, N.Y., where he specializes in the production of eggs and poultry.

From 1933 to 1938 Mr. Myers was on leave of absence from Cornell to serve as governor of the Farm Credit Administration. He had much to do with drawing up legislation creating the FCA and in establishing the regional offices now operating in the 12 Farm Credit Districts. He has also served as a member of several State and national commissions concerned with agricultural problems.

Mr. Myers is a trustee or director of several philanthropic foundations and business corporations. He was also appointed by President Eisenhower as a member of the International Development Advisory Board.

On October 22, 1953, the President named Mr. Myers to serve as chairman of the National Agricultural Advisory Commission.

George D. Bailey, Rochester, Vermont

Mr. Bailey owns 1100 acres of land of which about 130 acres are tillable. He has 85 head of registered Holsteins and a small sugar operation -- about 700 buckets. He has served as president of the Vermont Holstein Club, and as director of the New England Holstein Friesian Association. He began farming in 1914 and has devoted a great deal of time and effort in marketing milk and dairy products in New England markets.

Since 1934 he has been president of the Bethel Cooperative Creamery. He is past president and now is director of the Windsor County Farmers Exchange, trustee of the Gifford Memorial Hospital in Randolph,Vt., director of the National White River Bank in Bethel, Vt. and a selectman in his home town of Rochester.

Tom Hitch, Columbia, Tennessee

Mr. Hitch operates a 350-acre farm where he specializes in breeding Angus cattle. He also has long been active in all matters relating to tobacco production and marketing in Tennessee. He has served as a member of the Tobacco Advisory Committee under the Research and Marketing Act of 1946.

Mr. Hitch is president of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation and a delegate member of the National Cotton Council for Tennessee and Kentucky. He is a member of

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the board of directors for the Tennessee Farmers Cooperative, the Tennessee Producers Livestock Marketing Association, the Burley Tobacco Growers Association, the Tennessee State Board of Agriculture, and the Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company. He is also president of the Tennessee Farmers Auto and Fire Insurance Companies, the Tennessee Rural Health Improvement Association, and is vice-president of the Citizens for TVA, a newly organized group for supporting the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Albert K. Mitchell, Albert, New Mexico

Mr. Mitchell long has been directly interested in problems of the livestock industry, particularly the marketing phases of it. He owns large ranching interes near Albert, N. Mex. He is a member of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association and has served as president of the American National Livestock Association, as director of the National Livestock and Meat Board, and as a member of the New Mexic Cattle Sanitary Board.

Since its inception in 1947, Mr. Mitchell has been chairman of the Industry Advisory Committee on Foot and Mouth Disease. He has also been a member of the board of directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation and of the USDA National Agricultural Mobilization Board, and has served several terms as a member of the Federal Reserve Board, Denver Branch. He was one of the original members of the 11-man National Agricultural Research Policy Committee which was established under the Research and Marketing Act of 1946.

Mrs. Raymond Sayre, Ackworth, Iowa

Mrs. Sayre lives on a farm, and as a farm wife she has taken an active part in a wide range of local, national, and international organizations. Her parents were Iowa farmers and her grandparents were early settlers in that State.

She is past president of the Associated Country Women of the World and past president of the Associated Women of the American Farm Bureau, the American Country Life Association, and the Master Farm Homemaker Guild. During World War II Mrs. Sayre was a member of the President's National Committee on Civilian Defense, and is a member of the present Women's Advisory Committee on Civil Defense. In 1949 she was on an official assignment in Germany for the U.S. Army.

Mrs. Sayre also serves as a representative of the American Farm Bureau on the U.S. Commission for UNESCO and has served as chairwoman of the Home and Family Life Board of the Iowa Congress of Parents and Teachers. She is also a member of the Town and Country Committee for the Methodist Church. She is a member of the President's Committee on Traffic Safety, and for several years was on the Agricultural Research Policy Committee, (Research and Marketing Act of 1946) and is now a member of the Department of Agriculture's Advisory Committee on Foreign Agricultural Trade and Technical Assistance.

Jesse W. Tapp, Los Angeles, Calif.

Mr. Tapp is chairman, board of directors of the Bank of America in Los Angeles. He is a native of Corydon, Ky. An agricultural economist, Mr. Tapp has wide experience with agricultural programs and enterprises. He holds a B.S. degree

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in Agriculture from the University of Kentucky, an M.S. in agricultural economics from the University of Wisconsin, and has done graduate work at Harvard University.

Mr. Tapp worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture as an agricultural economist from 1920 to 1928, then as an economist with the National Investors Corporation until 1933. After that he became president and director of the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation and a member of the board of directors of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and the Commodity Credit Corporation.

In 1939 Mr. Tapp became vice-president of the Bank of America in San Francisco. This service was interrupted while he served briefly in the War Food Administration in 1943, and then as president of Axton-Fisher Tobacco Company in Louisville, Ky., until 1945. Mr. Tapp was a member of the USDA Foreign Agricultural Trade Policy Advisory Committee under the Research and Marketing Act from 1947 through 1952. He also is a member of the American Farm Economic Association, the Academy of Political Science, and the Commission on Foreign Economic Policy.

To serve until January 31, 1958 --

Roswell H. Anderson, Wibaux, Montana

Mr. Anderson has been active in farm programs for more than 20 years. He was a community, county, and State committeeman in the old AAA organization (now Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service) serving as chairman of the community committee in 1933. He was a farm supervisor in 1936, and a farmer fieldman from 1941 to April 1943, when he resigned to give full time to his farming operations.

He now farms about 780 acres, with about 475 acres in crops. He produces wheat, corn and grass seed. He has a herd of 35 head of beef cattle.

Homer R. Davison, Chicago, Illinois

Mr. Davison has been vice president of the American Meat Institute, Chicago, Ill., for 15 years and has been associated with the production and marketing of livestock all of his adult life. Born in the agricultural community of Marshall, Ill., Mr. Davison worked as a hired hand on livestock and grain farms in the summers during his college days. After graduation from the University of Illinois, where he majored in animal husbandry, he began his work in livestock marketing.

Mr. Davison became livestock commissioner of the Chicago Livestock Exchange more than 30 years ago. In cooperation with Federal, State, and county officials, he helped to promote an educational program to stamp out tuberculosis in cattle and swine.

Other positions held by Mr. Davison include: Director of association management of the American Meat Institute, director of the Department of Livestock of the Institute, and his present position as vice president. His work with the Institute has had to do with such livestock production problems as breeding, feeding, pasture improvement, and soil and water conservation. Mr. Davison has also devoted considerable time to developing and improving outlets for animal fats. He owns a farm and lives on it. but does not have time to devote himself to full-time farming.

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Arthur B. Evans, Cedarville, Ohio

Mr. Evans specializes in the breeding of purebred Hampshire hogs and purebred Angus cattle. He also does general farming on his approximately 800 acres, including the production of corn, wheat, oats, and clover.

He is president of the Ohio Republican Farm Council, president of the Ohio Swine Improvement Association, director of the Farmers & Traders Bank, Jamestown, Ohio, past president of the Ohio Hampshire Breeders Association, member of the Livestock Division of the Ohio State University Economics Planning Board, former member of the Green County Chamber of Commerce, director of the Hampshire Swine Record Association, a former member of the State Board of Agriculture, honorary member of the Future Farmers of America, active in 4-H Club work, and has been elected to the Ohio State University Hall of Fame.

Arthur C. Lawrence, Apex, North Carolina

Mr. Lawrence is master of the Olive Chapel (N.C.) Grange, a representative of the North Carolina State Grange on the State Tobacco Committee, chairman of the Wake County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee,and chairman of the Agricultural Policy Committee of the North Carolina State Grange.

He owns and operates a general farm of about 150 acres, producing tobacco, corn, oats, wheat, sweetpotatoes, and livestock.

Milo K. Swanton, Madison, Wisconsin

Mr. Swanton has been a farmer all his life. He owns and operates a 94-acre dairy and livestock farm near Madison in Dane County, Wis., on which he has lived since 1919. He has long been active in agricultural cooperative work in his State, having first served as local secretary of the American Society of Equity in 1919. In 1922 he was the leader in organizing the Madison Milk Producers Co-operative Association and has served as its first president. Mr. Swanton was also active in organizing the Wisconsin Tobacco Pool, and at the present time is a member of various marketing, service, and farm supply purchasing cooperatives.

Mr. Swanton became executive secretary of the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative in 1937 and since that time has held various other positions of statewide responsibility. From 1937 to 1940 he was secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, and for 3 years during the war he served as general manager of the American Dairy Association of Wisconsin. He has been chairman of the Wisconsin Centennial Executive Committee, a member of the Advisory Committee of the State Labor Relations Board. At the present time Mr. Swanton is a director of the National Milk Producers Federation and a trustee of the American Institute of Cooperation. He has been president of the American Country Life Association for the past 2 years.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Swanton did extension work for the University of Wisconsin and for 4 years served as an appraiser with the Federal Land Bank System.

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Ben Swigart, Mooreland, Oklahoma

Mr. Swigart has been a farmer nearly all of his life and in recent years with two of his sons has operated a 920-acre diversified farm, of which 80 acres are irrigated. Wheat, alfalfa, and sweet clover are produced on this farm, along with about 720 acres of pasture. The Swigarts also have a herd of 80 purebred Herefords and 25 Jersey cows.

Mr. Swigart has taken an active part in various local and State agricultural organizations and served successively since 1916 as board member, secretary, and president of the Farmers Cooperative Trading Company of Mooreland. He is president of the Farmers Cooperative Grain Dealers Association of Oklahoma, a director of the Woodward Production Credit Association, and has served on the Farm Credit Board of Wichita since 1945, acting as Chairman for the last two years.

Mr. Swigart is a charter member of the Woodward County Farm Bureau, and from 1934 to 1944 was president of the Mooreland local Farmers Union. Since 1950 he has been the legislative representative of the Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council. Mr. Swigart is a charter member of the Mooreland Community Creamery. He helped organize the Mooreland Community Hospital and served eight years as a director of that institution.

In January 1955 he was appointed for a four-year term as a member of Governor Raymond Gary's (Okla.) agricultural committee of The Economic and Development Commission. He is also a member of the agricultural advisory committee of Oklahoma A and M College.

To serve until January 31, 1959 --

Robert D. Armstrong, Monmouth, Illinois

Mr. Armstrong farms about 440 acres of land near Monmouth, Ill., of which he owns 160 acres. He produces both grain and livestock. Most of the grain produced on the Armstrong farm is fed to cattle and hogs. He normally produces about 400 hogs each year.

Mr. Armstrong is a past president of the Warren County Farm Bureau and has been a member of that organization for 19 years. He has served as a member of various committees of the Illinois Agricultural Association and from 1941 until 1953 he was the town clerk of Hale township. Mr. Armstrong was associated with the Production Credit System of the Farm Credit Administration for four years before he started to farm in March 1940. He is a former 4-H Club member, and a leader in that organization. He was graduated in 1936 from the College of Agriculture, University of Illinois.

Harry J. Beernink, Seattle, Washington

Mr. Beernink was born in Beaver Dam, Wis., and moved to Lynden, Whatcom county, Wash., when a child. He was reared on a poultry farm, and his stock made records in national egg-laying contests.

In 1917 he helped organize and was a charter member of the Washington Co-operative Egg and Poultry Association (reramed Washington Co-operative Farmers

Association in 1945). On the early years of the Association, he was a trustee and vice-president. In 1920 he resigned from the board to serve as manager of the Lynden branch. In 1928 he was transferred to Seattle to serve as assistant general manager, being promoted to general manager in 1936, in which capacity he has since served.

In 1936 Mr. Beernink was awarded the "Certificate of Merit" by Washington State College for his contribution to agriculture. During World War II he served on three War Production Board advisory committees and on the Selective Service Appeal Board No. 3, Seattle, representing agriculture.

He is a member of the Board and executive committee of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, the American Institute of Cooperation, the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, and the Association of Washington Industries. He represented the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives at the International Federation of Agricultural Producers at Paris, France, in 1948 and at Guelph, Canada, in 1949.

W. Aubrey Calloway, Bosco, La.

Mr. Calloway owns and operates a 1450 acre farm in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, and has 400 acres in pasture land. Since 1930 he has engaged in diversified farming consisting of cotton, corn, small grains, cattle and hogs. His cattle consist of a commercial Hereford herd and a registered Angus herd. Also he owns and operates a cotton gin, a feed mill, a seed grading plant, and a general store. From 1925 to 1930 he was engaged in rice and dairy farming.

Mr. Calloway is a member of the Louisiana Crop Improvement Association, Louisiana Cotton Breeders' Association, and Louisiana Hybrid Seed Corn Association. He served as chairman of the Federal Farm Security Administration county committee for two 3-year terms, and for 4 years was president of The Louisiana Hybrid Seed Corn Association.

O. B. Jesness, St. Paul, Minnesota

Mr. Jesness was born on the homestead of his parents in Stevens County, Minnesota, February 4, 1889. Since 1928 he has been head of the Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Minnesota. From 1920 to 1928 he was head of the Department of Markets and Rural Finance, University of Kentucky. From 1915 to 1920 he was on the staff of the U.S.Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. Mr. Jesness has given major attention to problems of agricultural policy in his teaching, research and public service activities.

He is a director and deputy chairman of the board of the Federal Reserve Bank, Minneapolis, and a director of Green Giant Co., Le Sueur, Minn. He is a member of the Foreign Commerce Department Committee, U.S.Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the advisory council, Agricultural Commission, American Bankers Association. He served as a consultant to the Commission on Foreign Economic Policy. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota with degrees of B.S.A., M.S. and Ph.D.

James J. Love, Quincy, Florida

Mr. Love operates four farms that he himself owns, and operates two farms on joint account with non-resident owners in Gadsden County, Fla. The main crops are

shadegrown cigar wrapper tobacco; pastures,timber, grain and fed steers. He also handles sales and warehousing of tobacco for several other farms.

Mr. Love is a member of the Florida Board of Control (of institutions of higher learning), member of the State Plant Board, director of two banks, and director of Winn-Dixie Grocery Company, a Southeastern food chain. He is past president and a member of the executive committee, Florida Shade Tobacco Growers Association, and was chairman of the Florida State Committee on the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and its successor agencies from 1933 until 1952.

Mr. Love was born August 30, 1898, and attended A. B. Dvaidson College.

Chris Milius, Omaha, Nebraska

Mr. Milius was born and raised on a farm and from 1915 to 1941 operated a diversified farm in Jefferson County, Nebraska, where he milked cows, fed a few cattle, raised hogs, and produced feed for this livestock.

During his early years as a farmer, Mr. Milius became interested in cooperatives. He served for five years as president of a local cooperative organization and eight years as county chairman. For 12 years he was a district director for the Farmers Educational and Cooperative State Union of Nebraska, and a member of its State Board for a comparable period. He is now serving his 16th year as president of this organization.

In addition, Mr. Milius has been a member of the Cooperative Elevator and Oil Company Board for 12 years and for many years has served on the board of the Farmers Union Co-operative Creamery Company after having helped to organize and sell shares in that company. He has also served as chairman of the Jefferson County Taxpayers League. Mr.Milius, although not now an active farmer, still owns 490 acres of land.

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

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